

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Energy Assistance Act is amended by changing
5 Section 4 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 20/4) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 1404)

7 Sec. 4. Energy Assistance Program.

8 (a) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
9 ~~Community Affairs~~ is hereby authorized to institute a program
10 to ensure the availability and affordability of heating and
11 electric service to low income citizens. The Department shall
12 implement the program by rule promulgated pursuant to The
13 Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. The program shall be
14 consistent with the purposes and objectives of this Act and
15 with all other specific requirements provided herein. The
16 Department may enter into such contracts and other agreements
17 with local agencies as may be necessary for the purpose of
18 administering the energy assistance program.

19 A township may administer the energy assistance program in
20 the territory within its jurisdiction. The Department of Public
21 Aid shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the changes
22 made by this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly. The
23 rules shall include, but need not be limited to, (i) provisions
24 setting forth the conditions under which a township may
25 administer the energy assistance program in the territory
26 within its jurisdiction and (ii) provisions for such a township
27 to participate in State and federal funding of the energy
28 assistance program.

29 (b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as altering or
30 limiting the authority conferred on the Illinois Commerce
31 Commission by the Public Utilities Act to regulate all aspects
32 of the provision of public utility service, including but not

1 limited to the authority to make rules and adjudicate disputes
2 between utilities and customers related to eligibility for
3 utility service, deposits, payment practices, discontinuance
4 of service, and the treatment of arrearages owing for
5 previously rendered utility service.

6 (Source: P.A. 92-690, eff. 7-18-02; revised 12-6-03.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
8 2005.